Agreement between CIL and trade unions

2519. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been reached between the Coal India Ltd. Management and five major central trade unions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Coal companies have taken a decision to rehabilitate wards of deceased workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed on 15.07.2005 between the Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies and five major Central Trade Unions, regarding revision of wages, allowances arid other fringe benefits.

(c) Under National Coal Wage Agreement-VI I, it has been agreed that provisions for employment on compassionate grounds towards of deceased workers as per National Coal Wage Agreement-VI (NCWA-VI) will continue to operate till a revised scheme is jointly prepared.

Import of coal

2520. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to import coal to meet the requirement of power companies and other industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity and grade of coal to be imported and from which countries;

(d) the efforts made by Coal India to increase production of good quality coal in the country; and

(e) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Import of coal is not done centrally, since coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), consumers are free to import coal

based on their requirements. It is envisaged that the gap of 39.17 million tonnes of coal as assessed by the Planning Commission, between indigenous supply and demand of coal during 2005-06 will be met to a large extent through import of coal by power, steel and cement sector and other industries. By and large, coal is imported by individual consumers from Indonesia, South Africa, Australia and China.

(d) The following measures have been taken by Coal India Limited (CIL) to improve production of coal:—

* 101 mining projects have been considered to be taken up during Tenth Plan.

* Improvement in equipment utilization.

* Mechanization/modernization of existing mines.

* Timely implementation of projects.

* All new mines are planned with mechanization.

Following steps have been undertaken by Coal India Limited to ensure supply of quality coal:—

* beneficiation of the coal produced by CIL through coal washeries.

* Deployment of new technology like selective mining with the use of surface Miners in various open cast mines.

* Adopting Controlled blasting methods for reducing the possibility of admixture of coal with over burden materials, improving fragmentation of coal etc.

* Picking of shales/stones before crushing and screening most of the coal produced by CIL in the Coal Handling Plants, thereby improving the quality.

(e) Owing to these measures, CIL has been able to improve the quality of coal and production has registered a growth of about 6% during 2004-05 as compared to the previous year.